

Charles W. Guildner

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

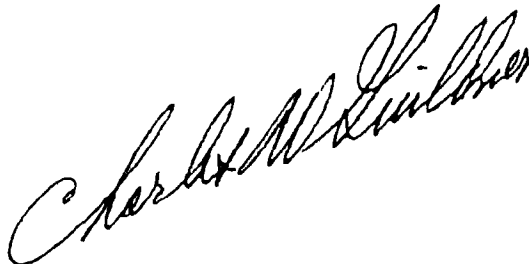
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am pleased that a settlement has been reached between Microsoft and the U.S. Department of Justice concerning the antitrust lawsuit. Though this is good news, I dare not fool myself into thinking that this matter has come to an end. The fact that there are still nine States who wish to pursue litigation against Microsoft is simply outrageous. What has Microsoft done to deserve such harsh treatment? From the very beginning Microsoft has proven itself to be a very strong company with timeless innovations. This company has done much to enhance the quality of the personal and professional lives of consumers all over the globe. Microsoft should not be punished for their competitors' inability to keep with Microsoft very distinct strides to revolutionize the IT industry.

Despite the harsh terms of the proposed settlement, Microsoft has not only agreed to these terms, they have also agreed to terms that were not even at issue in the lawsuit. This is the perfect illustration of Microsoft's willingness to comply. As part of their compliance efforts, Microsoft has agreed to enhance competition to the computer industry by granting their competitors greater access to their protocols and intellectual property.

Microsoft has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that they will do every thing they possibly can to prevent future antitrust violations. After all, no one wants to repeat any of the events of the last three years of litigation. I hope that you make sincere strides to really listen to the public and give Microsoft the chance to continue their innovative and creative service to the computer industry and to as many consumers that want to utilize their products!

Sincerely,



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